

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 21 2008

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a closed container with a tight and mechanically strong seal by fastening together:

a metal body having an a central axis with a shape that is one of cylindrical and prismatic, said body having a base with at least one axial wall parallel to said central axis and an open top axial end; and

a metal cover having an axis coaxial with said central axis of said body and at least one end wall parallel to said central axis to be positioned at said top axial end of said body facing said at least one axial wall of said body;

wherein the method comprises the following two steps in succession, carried out in a hostile environment in an automated manner, under remote control:

docking said body and said cover so that said axial wall of said body in the vicinity of said open top thereof and said end wall of said cover face each other and are maintained in contact; and

producing a continuous penetrative weld over the entire periphery of said cover and said body at the ends of their respective walls which are maintained in contact.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first docking step comprises a guided approach of said cover and said body, a docking guide being arranged in the internal structure of one of said cover and said body.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said weld is produced without spot welding, and further comprising the step of exerting a force on at least one of the ends of the walls of said body and said cover to thereby maintain said body and said cover in contact during welding.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said weld is produced without a filler metal.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said weld is produced by open jet plasma process with melt-bath back cover and further comprising the step of limiting the internal overpressure in the container produced.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said weld is produced with the container substantially in the vertical position, with the weld axis substantially horizontal.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said weld is produced with the container being fixed and with a welding head which is rotated around said container at the level of the ends of the walls maintained in contact.